

Sea And Shore

## More about Mayflower barn

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My article in a recent edition concerning the Mayflower barn brought several letters and telephone calls from those wishing more information on this interesting subject.

Of course, everyone knows that the Mayflower crossed the ocean in 1620, carrying the Pilgrims, but what is not so well-known is that the craft had a close call with breaking up when her main beam "bowed and cracked" and had to be reinforced with a great iron screw on her trip to Plymouth.

When the Mayflower had deposited the Pilgrims on the shores of the New World, she returned to England, and here is where the connection with the barn in Jordans, England, comes in.



E. R. Snow

Four years after her voyage to Plymouth, the Mayflower reached the end of her seaworthiness. She was broken up, but her frames were saved.

Sixty-three years later, at Jordans, located between London and Oxford, was built the Jordans Meeting House. The great barn, still standing, with its oak joists and rafters, even today can be identified by builders as having been built using ships timbers.

The actual crack which was in the Mayflower's main beam is still pointed out to visitors, while letters cut into another beam substantiate the fact that the barn was built with many timbers from the original Mayflower.

A door in the Jordans hostel was the cabin door of the Mayflower; the original floral design cannot be mistaken.

Any of my readers who are interested enough can make the trip down from London to Jordans. Additional information on this pleasant journey can be obtained through the Friends Home Service Committee in Euston Road, London.

It was on my visit to Longon in 1942 that I was able to obtain a fragment of the Mayflower, for I am a ninth-generation descendant of Constance Hopkins, who was a passenger on the vessel.

Whether this will help any other person whose ancestor came across on that overcrowded craft obtain a fragment, I cannot say; but I will give assistance if needed.

Indeed, I do enjoy the realization that part of the frame of a barn in Jordans, England, is made from the craft that transported 102 persons to Plymouth in 1620.

William Bradford himself shall have the last word for today. Let us call on him at his Plymouth home as he writes, years after the landing of the Mayflower, of the near-disaster which I mentioned earlier:

"One of the main beams in the midships was bowed and cracked, which put them in some fear that the ship could not be able to complete her voyage . . . There was a great iron screw which the passengers brought out from Holland, which would raise the beam into his place, then which being done."